

albuminous contents, the facility with which they are reduced to a state fit for assimilation depends upon the relative quantity of the soluble and insoluble form of this albumen. Besides this important explanation, chemistry also suggests the reason of dressing some vegetables with vinegar; for all forms of cabbage contain a large quantity of insoluble albumen, which is rendered soluble by the addition of this acid. It is probable that in the preparation of vegetables for the table we have much to learn, and no doubt the indefatigable efforts of the vegetarians will be of use.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

AN ADDRESS

Read before the Congress of British Homeopathic Practitioners, held at London, by J. G. GARTE WILKINSON, M. D.

We have just completed the perusal of the above address, and have derived pleasure from every line. The originality, the practical good sense, and the agreeable style of Dr. Wilkinson in whatever he undertakes, have long been familiar to us; and we congratulate the profession that his able pen is rendering such excellent service to the cause of homeopathy.

The following extracts from the pamphlet will give the reader an idea of its quality.—MARCY.

"The established medicine will perhaps last some time yet, unless unforeseen events hasten its ruin; for it is a vast property, or plant, representing a capital of many millions sterling; with the force of many ages in its trunk: with the fact that not long ago it was the best thing going, because it was the only thing; defended, too, by a disciplined and instinctive army of respectable gentlemen, in this country fifty or sixty thousand strong, with all their numerous connexions and dependents; and now, in its old age, when it has got through the stratum of living soil, rooting deeper in the tough clay of orthodoxy, apathy, respectability, general deafness, flourishing journalism, scorn,

infidelity to new ideas, white chokers, hard-heartedness, and extreme propriety. A sick tree like that may, as Sir Hamilton Seymour said of Turkey, be a long time in dying. And even when it is dead, it may make a good show of everything but leaves and fruits, and in the winter, which is seven months out of the twelve, and the profitable medical time, it may stand bare among the bare, and challenge a very good comparison. Nevertheless, there is a score upon it, a deathly chalk mark, which is a providential hieroglyph of the coming axe.

Now, in this old corporation, medicine is an art and mystery: not only a separate profession, but a fenced, pale, and invisible park of society, with advertisement of man-traps and spring-guns to all intruders. The public has no business there; for it is corporate private property. Under that regime, the public has nothing to do with prescriptions, but to swallow them. 'Tis a medical despotism, with *secrecy* and *espionage* working as right and left eyes in the head of absolute power. The secrecy is humanely couched: the apparatus of medicine is concealed, lest the ignorant public, like children playing with loaded pistols, should kill themselves, and thus enter the other world without making that seemingly difficult bow to this world which is implied in dying according to art. And the secrecy also incidentally brings grist to the mill, and keeps up the proper monopoly of the medical guild; whose aim is thus accomplished, of limiting domestic medicine to the smallest, and beyond that, making it impossible. The espionage lies in the jealous overseeing of all and singular patients by the doctors, to keep them pure from "homeopathy and its kindred delusions;" in the insinuation that those persons who fall into these are of unsound mind; whereby they are tabooed in their neighborhoods, medically excommunicated, and not only run risk of not dying according to art, but also of not associating with the best circles during their very improper and insulting sojourn upon earth. Such is this old corporation, which is protected